Editorial Introduction to the First Issue of the *Journal of Ancient History*

The Editorial Board and I are proud to present this first issue of the *Journal of Ancient History* under the aegis of Walter De Gruyter Press. We were driven to found the *JAH* by a noticeable lack of journals, in the United States in particular, devoted solely to ancient history (and not just to one region or era, or to ancient history *and* philology or archaeology). Although the academic world is increasingly driven by cross-disciplinary visions and models, we seek some intra-disciplinary views, endeavoring to inform scholars of one period of ancient history about the trends and ideas being put forward in others. As Prof. Van de Mieroop points out in his article in this very first issue, not only are we as ancient historians being driven toward a “world history” viewpoint by fellow historians in our research, but many of us—in the United States at least—are also expected to know all periods of ancient Mediterranean history well enough to teach general classes on them to undergraduate students. I second his call that we should embrace this expanded model with the hope that it will also provide a broadened and nuanced perspective for our own particular areas of specialty, both for enlivened research and for training the next generations of ancient historians.

To this end, in addition to standard articles, in every volume of the *JAH* we hope to provide an “area review” of the recent scholarship for some period of ancient Mediterranean history, the bar already being set high in this first issue by Prof. Van de Mieroop’s piece on the ancient Near East. Although we are not considering book reviews right now, we do hope to present from time to time a review or report of some new or on-going ancient history resource. For instance, for an issue in 2014 or 2015, Prof. Kevin Clinton has kindly agreed to write a piece for us on his extensive experience with the venerable *Inscriptiones Graecae* on the occasion of its 200th anniversary. The *IG* is the longest standing publication series held by De Gruyter.

We are also sending out a call for papers relating to the *IG* to appear in an issue of *JAH* in 2015. These can be articles about the history of the *IG*, reflections on its (past and/or continued) usefulness as a resource, or even substantive articles dealing with specific inscriptions in the *IG*. The deadline for submissions for this special issue is December 1, 2014.

Finally, I should add that we are committed to a speedy and rational refereeing process for every piece of scholarship submitted to us. We endeavor to reply to all papers submitted within five weeks time with an answer about acceptance or rejection. We also do not require formatting for submissions in our style until after the paper has been accepted by us for publication.
I'd like to thank our Editorial Board for their work so far in helping to found the *JAH*. From them I'd like to single out in particular Prof. Michael Flower for his advice and assistance at key moments over the past year. Michiel Klein-Swormink, Editorial Director Humanities North America at De Gruyter, has been tireless with his support since he and I conceived of the idea of the *JAH* about two years ago; Prof. Corey Brennan also provided valuable insight in that initial period of discussion about founding a new journal. And, finally, I'd like to extend my deepest gratitude to Katheryn Whitcomb, Assistant Editor of the *JAH*, for all of her hard work to ensure the timely completion of this first issue.

Gary D. Farney, Editor of the *JAH*